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has been attacked from different sides, not excluding that of metrical geometry, although of course the chief emphasis has been placed on constructive and visualising methods. The geometry of space is considered in connection with that of the plane. The figures are in two colors.

Dr. Robert Haussner, the author of the *Descriptive Geometry* in this series, is professor in the University of Giessen and the translator of Monge's celebrated *Géométrie descriptive*, which was the pioneer work of this very practical and useful branch of mathematics, and the inaugurator of the modern Renaissance of geometrical research. Dr. Haussner's work, while concise, is very comprehensive and a thoroughly modern presentation of its subject.

It will not be amiss to mention in this connexion that Götschen has also recently issued the first part of a *Multidimensional Geometry* by Dr. P. H. Schoute, of the University of Groningen, Holland. The book treats of linear spaces and the work will restrict its investigations to the geometry of Euclid. μ .

THE SCIENCE OF MECHANICS. A Critical and Historical Account of Its Development. By *Dr. Ernst Mach*, Professor of the History and Theory of Inductive Science in the University of Vienna. Translated from the German by Thomas J. McCormack. Second Revised and Enlarged Edition. With 259 Cuts and Illustrations. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. 1902. Pages, xix, 605. Price, Cloth, \$2.00 net (9s. 6d. net).

The appearance of the second edition of Dr. Ernst Mach's now famous work on the development of mechanics is coincident with a wide-spread revival of philosophical interest in the foundations and methods of the various exact sciences; and the translator of the present work remarks:

"Since the appearance of the first edition of the present translation of Mach's *Mechanics*, the views which Professor Mach has advanced on the philosophy of science have found wide and steadily increasing acceptance. Many fruitful and elucidative controversies have sprung from his discussions of the historical, logical, and psychological foundations of physical science, and in consideration of the great ideal success which his works have latterly met with in Continental Europe, the time seems ripe for a still wider dissemination of his views in English-speaking countries. The study of the history and theory of science is finding fuller and fuller recognition in our universities, and it is to be hoped that the present exemplary treatment of the simplest and most typical branch of physics will stimulate further progress in this direction."

The text of the present edition of the English translation contains the extensive additions made by the author to the fourth German edition published in 1901, and has been thoroughly revised throughout. The author's additions are considerable, occupying a space of more than seventy pages, the principal sections being those discussing Hertz's *Mechanics* and the concepts of mass, inertia, absolute

motion, etc. These elucidative remarks of the author will be found highly valuable by students of the philosophy and history of science, while the references to the recent literature in this department, which is very rich, will also be found helpful. The price of the book, which in the German is quite expensive, has been reduced, and the publishers have taken every measure to render the work attractive and accessible to the public for which it is intended.

VORTRÄGE ÜBER DESCENDENZTHEORIE GEHALTEN AN DER UNIVERSITÄT ZU FREIBURG IM BREISGAU. Von *August Weismann*. Mit 3 farbigen Tafeln und 131 Textfiguren. Jena: Verlag von Gustav Fischer. 1902. Pages, Erster Band, xii, 456. Zweiter Band, vi, 462.

After a long silence and after the smoke of the great controversy which ten years ago or more hung over the battle-fields of biology has entirely vanished, the name of Weismann again appears upon the literary horizon. There is a note of sadness in the present two volumes of lectures on the *Theory of Descent*. Its author remarks that "when a life which has been full of the joy that labor brings is nearing its end, a desire inevitably arises to put into symmetrical and harmonious form the main results of one's achievements, as a bequest to the generations to come." A painful affection of the eyes has greatly hindered his labors, and he feels uncertain whether time or strength will long be left him for the further improvement of his biological system. These have been the motives which have led him to the present publication. It is hoped that his apprehensions will not be fulfilled.

The work is a collection of lectures on general biology which the author delivered before a mixed audience of students of medicine and natural sciences. Weismann still stoutly maintains that, despite the opposition which they have encountered, his biological views of descent and heredity are essentially and fundamentally correct,—notably his assumption of the "determining" units of life (determinants) and their relation to the ids. Closely connected with the theory of determinants stands his theory of Germinal Selection (expounded some years ago in the pages of *The Monist*), without which, he claims, the great thought of the controlling influence of natural selection in the transmutation of living forms with the rejection of the unfit and the selection of the fit, would remain a torso, a tree without roots. The application of this principle of selection to each and every single element of the various categories of vital units, is, he states, the very gist and kernel of his biological views. It is the dominating thought of the lectures, that in which their significance centers. "It will endure," says Weismann, "even though everything else the work contains shall perish."

Whatever may be the opinion of critics on this point, none can gainsay that the picture of modern biological research, which the great inquirer has here unrolled, is one of great fascination and replete with instruction.